



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2008

No. 185

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 10, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ELLEN O. TAUSCHER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord of the ages, ever-faithful to Your promises, be with Your people, now and forever.

The sun grows dim and the daylight is measured. In the darkness, phantoms loom. The eye cannot discern as the distance fades. Be for us light.

Help Your people make clear judgments that will propel us into the future. Remove any shadowy cloud so we follow the patterns of silent stars.

O Lord of the ages, ever-faithful to Your promises, be with Your people now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS TODAY

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

MOVE THAT BUS

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, Carol Girard of Voluntown, Connecticut, is an inspiration to all of us. Last year a devastating fire forced Carol, her husband, Thomas, and family from their home and into a camper in the shadow of the home's charred remains. After that loss, Carol suffered the ultimate tragedy when her husband, Thomas, and their son, Marc, drowned in Connecticut's Green Falls Pond.

This week the television show Extreme Makeover: Home Edition answered Voluntown's call for help. Today, where her house once stood, a new home, a new life and restored hope have arisen for Carol and her surviving children, Lucas, Hannah, Jacqueline and Adam.

Hundreds upon hundreds of volunteers have poured on to the site this week making the construction of a new beautiful home possible. In particular, Home Designs by Bruno of Colchester, Connecticut, deserves America's thanks for coordinating this effort.

In honor of the great work of Extreme Makeover: Home Edition and the Girard family, I join all of Eastern Connecticut in saying "Move That Bus!"

ZIMMER ORTHOPAEDICS OF STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, earlier this fall I had the privilege to visit Zimmer Manufacturing in Statesville, North Carolina. During my visit to Zimmer's Statesville facility, I witnessed a thriving company committed to producing high quality surgical

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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products. But as impressed as I was with Zimmer's Statesville plant, I was more impressed with the company's dedication to its employees and their safety.

This summer the Zimmer plant logged more than 1 million safe hours with no injuries or illnesses that resulted in lost work days. That is nearly four straight years of providing a flawless safety record. So I was not surprised when I found out later that Doug Pond, the supervisor at Zimmer, won first place in the annual North Carolina Statewide Safety Talk Contest hosted by the North Carolina Industrial Commission in Greensboro, North Carolina.

I congratulate Zimmer of Statesville for its impressive safety record and for its commitment to providing an accident-free workplace. During these uncertain economic times, it's good to talk about a company that is doing something right.

SECOND NATIONAL HEALTH DISPARITY CONFERENCE

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding Second National Health Disparity Conference sponsored by the University of the Virgin Islands Caribbean Research Center and the Director, Dr. Gloria Callwood, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation last week in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. We will meet in Atlanta, Georgia, next year.

The conference brought together Members of Congress, leading researchers from the Federal Government, academic institutions and the private sector, educators, advocates and health consumers. We looked at issues ranging from factors determining academic success in African American males to the impact of climate change on health, but primarily focused on the health and health care challenges of Americans of color and poor and rural Americans. The presentations, questions, comments and recommendations will inform the health care reform agenda of the Congressional Black Caucus in the 111th Congress.

Madam Speaker, I extend thanks to the capitol and local security, sponsors, speakers, attendees, staff and all who made the conference a success, but especially Shelley Thomas of my staff and MUSC Assistant Professor David Rivers for his leadership and vision.

UNCLE "SANTA" SAM AND THE BIG THREE AUTO BOYS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it's Christmas time in the city, so the Fed-

eral Government is about to give away more taxpayer dollars to those with their corporate hands out.

Now the Big Three Automakers say they need Uncle "Santa" Sam to save them from themselves even though they have been bad all year. And they expect "Joe Sixpack" from Dime Box, Texas, to pay for their naughty deeds.

We can't call it a bailout because that might be too honest a statement to our citizens; so we call it a "bridge loan." Actually it's a bridge loan to nowhere.

And Congress wants to create a Car Czar to oversee the control of how the Big Three make new cars. They tell us it's not the nationalization of the car business, but it sounds close enough for government work to me.

Anyway, does anybody really think the Federal Government knows anything about the car business?

If you like the way the Federal Government fouled up the mortgage industry by over-regulating Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac that has cost the taxpayers billions, or you like the way the Federal Government controls passenger rail service with Amtrak that loses billions of dollars every year, you'll love the way the Federal bureaucrats make new cars.

The new federalized auto industry will have the competence of FEMA, the pleasantries of the Post Office, and the compassion of the IRS.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TEACHERS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards recently announced their latest list of newly National Board Certified teachers. I am grateful to report that the 176 teachers this round from the Second Congressional District of South Carolina represent the highest number of any district in America.

I know the citizens of the Second District are extremely proud and grateful to have such well-qualified professional teachers working to educate their children. Families understand that a strong education is the foundation for future success. We must continue to bring parents, teachers and school administrators together in a common pursuit of high quality, accessible and affordable education. This should be done with the utmost respect for the unique needs and challenges of our local schools. Our schools should be run by dynamic elected local school boards.

I want to thank our Nation's professional educators for their dedication to teaching our children and building a brighter future.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 11 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1430

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON H.R. 7322, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RE- LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA- TIONS ACT, 2009

Mr. MOLLOHAN, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-919) on the bill (H.R. 7322) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

REPORT ON H.R. 7323, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOV- ERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

Mr. SERRANO, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-920) on the bill (H.R. 7323) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

REPORT ON H.R. 7324, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RE- LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA- TIONS ACT, 2009

Mr. SERRANO, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-921) on the bill (H.R. 7324) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.